

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EXMOUTH ON MONDAY, 4TH OCTOBER 2010 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Councillors: J Whipps (Chairman)
D Chapman I Stewart
V Duval-Steer P Stott
S Gazzard S Sutton
P Graham M Williamson
J Mitchell E Wragg
M Mitchell S Wragg
D Nicholas

APOLOGIES: Councillors K Harper, B Taylor & L Elson

F13 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26th JULY 2010

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26th July 2010 were approved and signed as a correct record.

F14 URGENT BUSINESS

None

F15 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

There were no items on the agenda that required exclusion of the press and public.

F16 PRESENTATION

Mr David Turner (Deputy Principal Exmouth Community College) gave a presentation on the work of the Community Cadets in support of their application for financial assistance. The Committee then heard from Katie and Josh, two of the cadets from the scheme who outlined the projects they had undertaken and what the scheme had helped them to achieve. The Cadets were also supported by PC Martin Young & Mrs Gemma Westcott a teacher from the Community College who was taking over responsibility of the Cadet scheme in the Community College. The Committee were unanimous in agreeing a grant of £1,000 and also asked the Town Clerk to liaise with David Turner to discuss setting up a SLA for the years 2011/12 and 2012/13 to help the scheme to continue and develop. The Committee asked that the Cadets be invited back on an annual basis to give updates.

RESOLVED that a grant of £1,000 be given for the year 2010/11 and a SLA be set up for the years 2011/12 and 2012/13.

Note: Prejudicial interests were declared by Councillors Joy Whipps a teacher at the Community College & Pat Graham a Governor of the Community College who both left the room for consideration of the grant application.

F17 CLOCK TOWER

The Committee had before it a copy of an email from EDDC concerning the Clock Tower transfer to Exmouth Town Council. It advised that EDDC would not be able to fund the repairs listed. However none of the works were of a service nature and would not be considered for 3 or 4 years. The clock service contract which expires on 31st July 2011 would be transferred to ETC. Costs to the Town Council would be incurred for July 2012, clock service annually thereafter, repairing the inscriptions and repairs in due course. Annual budgeting need to be provided for these future costs.

RECOMMENDED that:-

- a) The Clock Tower ownership be transferred from EDDC to ETC at a nominal cost.**
- b) Budgeting procedures set in place for future management costs.**
- c) EDDC be advised that this does not set a precedent to expect ETC to ensure ownership of assets without funding support and that the transfer is accepted as the Clock Tower is an iconic structure for Exmouth and requires preservation and care related to the significant for the Town.**
- d) Investigations be made to see if S106 funding can be set aside for maintenance.**

F18 CHAIRMEN'S GROUP

The Committee had before it the notes of the Chairmen's Group held on Thursday 30th October 2010 (previously circulated).

The Chairmen's Group had considered budget bids for next year and the level of precept which may be set. It had considered principles for dealing with any possibilities of taking on further EDDC services as follows:-

- No commitment be given to taking on further services from the East Devon District Council until it has set a future policy for non-statutory services proportionate across the district over the short to medium term;
- *(This was put forward because it was considered that where services were taken on this provided savings for EDDC which were readily accepted but that where parishes did not take on services it was considered that EDDC had not necessarily reduced the services which they had said they would cut).*
- That this Council will look at services which it might seek to deliver but will wish to see estimates of costs and how this might be funded so that it does not commit the local Council Tax Payer with extra costs without Government Grant support unless there is absolutely no alternative and it is clear that the District Council is removing a service comprehensively across the District.
- That the budgets will be looked at comprehensively to see whether current expenditure can be more effectively committed and where leverage of funding through grants or sponsorship can be achieved.

Consideration had been given to areas of work for the Council to support and for which budget provision would need to be made:-

• Strand Management	£6,000
• Festoon Lights	£15,000
• Community Plan	£13,000
• Business Improvement District	£17,000
• Supplementary Street Cleaner and Van	£15,000
• Add to General Reserves	£5,000
• Total	£65,000

A separate report on future management of the Strand was also previously circulated showing proposed responsibilities on completion. For Exmouth Town Council there would be some minor maintenance roles, entertainment provision and street pavement licence administration which still had to be formalised in detail. An amount of £6,000 per year was included in the provisional budget. Some concerns were raised about the necessity of managing entertainment in the Strand and the case for and against was considered. Questions were still outstanding concerning the cost of seasonal flowers and whether these would be covered by East Devon District Council for one more year.

Resolved that

(a) the principles concerning services being offered by EDDC as written above be adopted;

(b) the principles for preparing the budget for 2011/12 as put forward by the Chairmen's Group be accepted on the basis of freezing the Council Tax at the same level as last year.

F19 PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING CONFERENCE – 15TH OCTOBER 2010

Any Councillor wishing to attend to contact the Town Clerk.

F20 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS

1. The Big Event

The Committee received a request for financial support from Jamie Osbourne for the hire of the Pavilion to showcase local events for young people. The need for a grant was questioned in view of the fact that this was a ticketed event. However there was a wish to support the initiatives of these young people.

RESOLVED that the Council will act as a guarantor against loss for up to £500, submission of income and expenditure accounts after the event if attendance fails to reach its potential.

2. Bowling Club Centenary Flag

The Committee received a request for financial support from Phear Park Bowling Club for a grant of £200 towards purchasing a suitable centenary flag to mark the clubs centenary on 3rd July 2010.

RESOLVED that a payment of £200 grant be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

SIGNED.....

DATED.....